



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 30, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and  
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*  
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Race to the Top - District Level Applications

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) has announced the availability of \$400 million for Race to the Top grants for local school districts. The grants will support school districts in implementing local reforms that will personalize learning, close achievement gaps and take full advantage of 21st century tools that prepare each student for college and their careers. The four-year awards will range from \$5 million to \$40 million, depending on the population of students served through the plan. The USED is expecting to make 15-25 awards.

More information, including the application for the Race to the Top-District competition, can be found at: [www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-district](http://www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-district). The USED is requesting interested districts to submit their intent to apply by August 30, 2012 and will offer webinars and conference calls over the coming weeks to provide technical assistance. Applications are due October 30, 2012, with awards being announced no later than December 31, 2012.

Part of the application process requires each local district included in an application to provide its State Education Agency (SEA) at least 10 business days to comment on the district's application and submit as part of its application a) the SEA's comments, or if the SEA declined to comment, evidence that the district offered the SEA 10 business days to comment and b) the district's response to the SEA's comments (optional).

Since the grants are due to the USED on October 30, 2012, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will need to receive district application by October 16, 2012. To help MDE prepare for a review of district applications, please notify Ryan Starkweather at [starkweatherr1@michigan.gov](mailto:starkweatherr1@michigan.gov) if your district is planning to submit a Race to the Top application. If your district is planning to apply, your application should be emailed to Mr. Starkweather no later than October 16, 2012.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

JOHN C. AUSTIN – PRESIDENT • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – VICE PRESIDENT  
NANCY DANHOF – SECRETARY • MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE – TREASURER  
RICHARD ZEILE – NASBE DELEGATE • KATHLEEN N. STRAUS  
DANIEL VARNER • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
[www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) • (517) 373-3324